REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination of the application, as amended, are requested. All objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-2, 4-18, 20-29 and 31-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious based on U.S. Patent No. 5,517,578 to Altman ("Altman") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,682,439 to Beernink ("Beernink"). Claims 3, 19 and 30 are canceled.

Claim 1, as amended, recites in relevant part:

"A system for managing ink information in a computer system having a pen-based input tablet, the system comprising:"

"an ink manager coupled to the pen driver for receiving the ink strokes, the ink manager having an ink phrase termination engine configured to examine the ink information collected by the pen driver and, upon detecting the occurrence of an ink phrase termination event, to identify a respective end of an ink phrase to the ink manager," and

"the ink manager stores the ink strokes received prior to the ink phrase termination event in a selected ink phrase data structure and, in response to receiving from the client application **a reference context affiliated with the un-recognized ink strokes of the ink phrase, associates the reference context with the ink strokes.**"

The Office Action contends that Beernink teaches the association of a reference context with un-recognized ink strokes. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In particular, the Office Action cites to Beernink's pop-up corrector 168, as shown in Fig. 5, as purportedly teaching a reference context. Beernink clearly shows, however, that his pop-up corrector 168 only appears with already recognized ink strokes.

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See Figs. 5-7, which show the recognition results being displayed to the user. Beernink

acknowledges as much at Col. 10, lines 17-30, where he states:

> FIG. 5 illustrates a response of the boxed input correction system to the selected word 164 being selected to invoke a pop-up corrector 168 in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. The pop-up corrector 168 provides an alternates list 170, an ink word 172, a keyboard button 174, and a boxed input corrector (BIC) selector button 176. The alternates list 170 provides the user with some character strings which the **recognition software** believes are close matches for the ink word 172. The ink word 172 represents the original strokes which comprised the word which the user entered. Selecting the keyboard button 174 will display a keyboard window. Once the keyboard window is displayed, the user can select desired characters from the keyboard via the stylus 110.

Thus, Beernink's pop-up corrector 168 is not a reference context associated with un-

recognized ink strokes. Instead, to the contrary, it displays recognition results.

Apparently recognizing this deficiency, the Office Action then cites to Col. 12,

lines 65-67 through Col. 13, lines 1-5 of Beernink as purportedly teaching un-recognized

ink strokes. However, this excerpt of Beernink, in which the ink strokes entered by the

user are displayed back to the user, makes no mention at all of the pop-up corrector 168.

This excerpt in its entirety states as follows:

> In this example, the ink word is centered within the boxed input corrector 180 and sized such that the whole ink word is visible therein. In a way, the ink word is a single unrecognized character displayed in a single box. In the illustrated embodiment, a 'recognize' button 290 is displayed within the boxed input corrector. When the user selects the recognize button 290, the recognition software will process the ink word in order to produce a string of one or more well defined characters.

As shown, this excerpt from Beernink makes no reference to his pop-up corrector, which

can only appear after the ink strokes have been subjected to Beernink's recognition soft-

ware. Because Beernink fails, among other things, to teach or suggest the association of

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a reference context with un-recognized ink strokes, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Independent claims 16 and 27 are also allowable for similar reasons, as well as other independent reasons. Claims 2-15, 17-26 and 28-36 depend from allowable base claims, and thus they too are allowable for these reasons, as well as other independent reasons.
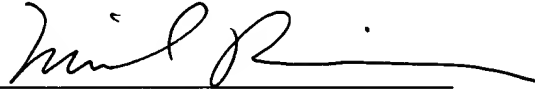
<u>Claim Amendments</u>

Applicants have amended independent claims 16 and 27 to broaden the claims. Applicants also amended claim dependent 33 to better conform to the claim from which it ultimately depends, i.e., claim 27. In addition, Applicants have added new claims 37-47. No new matter is being introduced. Support for the new claims may be found in the Specification as originally filed at pp. 3-5 and 10-18, Figs. 3-5, and the claims as originally filed, among other places.

Applicants submit that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance, and early favorably action is respectfully requested.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account

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Respectfully submitted,

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